

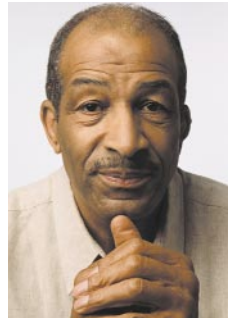
**Working Together, We Can Make A
Difference In Improving The Health
Status and The Quality of Life For
African-American Men and Boys By:**

- **Advocating** for greater accountability and responsibility on behalf of African-American men, their families and their communities to make health care a higher priority.
- **Educating** individuals and families about critical health problems and to increase the awareness of concerns about African-American male health.
- **Supporting** responsive, consumer-oriented health care information, services and access to health care or health insurance.
- **Encouraging** and supporting development of practices and activities that would eliminate risky health behaviors.
- **Promoting** efforts to increase the self-sufficiency for African-American men and boys by fostering supportive work and school environments that encourage positive interactions and health awareness.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

The African-American Male Initiative needs your help in forming partnerships within communities, with universities, colleges, the private sector, as well as local and state governments, to jointly focus on solutions to combat major contributors of premature death.

**You and your organization can help too.
Call 1-517-335-8953 to find out how.**



John Engler, Governor
James K. Haveman, Jr., Director

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**AFRICAN-AMERICAN
HEALTH INITIATIVE:**

**Striving
Toward a
Healthier
Future**



Making the Survival of the African-American Male a Priority in Michigan.

The African-American Male Initiative is the effort sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health to reach out to African-American communities throughout the state to combat the causes of premature death.

FACING THE PROBLEM

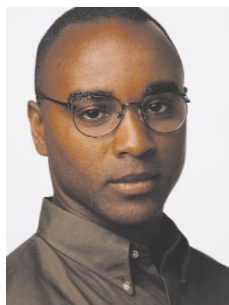
African-American men are facing several serious problems concerning personal health, lifestyles and awareness of critical health issues. In fact, too many African-American men are dying prematurely of many preventable diseases.

DID YOU KNOW?

Heart Disease and Stroke

(Cardiovascular Disease): Heart disease is the leading cause of death among African-American males in Michigan. Stroke ranks fifth as a major health problem.

Cancer: Cancer is the second leading cause of death for African-American men. The three major cancers affecting black males are lung, colon-rectal and prostate cancer.



Homicide and Suicide: While both of these critical health issues have declined nationally, they still remain significant causes of premature death for black males in Michigan.

HIV and AIDS: AIDS death rates have declined in recent years, but the AIDS infection rate for African-American men remains substantially higher than that of other men.

Unintentional (accidental) injuries: Nearly 50 percent of all unintentional injury deaths for black men are the result of car and other traffic accidents.

Perinatal Conditions: The African-American male infant mortality rate is 1.7 times greater than the rate for white male infants. These deaths are the result of sudden infant death syndrome, congenital anomalies and respiratory distress.

Pneumonia and Flu: African-American men have a 70 percent greater chance of dying from pneumonia and flu than other segments of the population.

Chronic Liver Disease: While cirrhosis of the liver is declining, alcohol and substance abusers are at a higher risk of getting Hepatitis C.

Diabetes: African-American men face an increasing rate of death from diabetes.

50 percent of the causes of premature death for African-American men are related to the following lifestyles that can be prevented:

- Smoking
- Eating high-fat and high cholesterol diets
- Lack of proper exercise
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Having unprotected sex
- Not wearing seatbelts



FINDING THE SOLUTIONS

Although there are many critical health problems and issues facing African-American men in Michigan, much can be done to improve their overall health

status. We can start by working together in mobilizing local community resources, both human and financial, to develop new solutions to these problems.